



JUDICIAL PROFILE

James E. McDougall is one of the senior judicial officers of the Superior Court having begun his judicial career in 1981. In 1974, he was appointed to the Maricopa County Superior Court Bench as a court commissioner. During the seven years he served in that capacity, he was instrumental in the creation and organization of the first domestic relations division of the Superior Court in Maricopa County. After becoming a judge, he has served over 12 years in Juvenile Court. Six of those years, from 1989 to 1995, he served as the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Department. He is presently assigned to the Criminal Court Department. A life-long resident of Arizona, Judge McDougall received his B.A. in 1966 and J.D. in 1969 from the University of Arizona. Upon graduation from law school, he took a position as staff attorney with the State Compensation Fund dealing with workman's compensation claims. Later, he spent a short period of time as an associate with the law firm of Murphy, Posner & Franks, concentrating in real estate, personal injury and commercial law before his appointment as a Superior Court Commissioner.



Judge McDougall has had a distinguished judicial career, concentrating most of his achievements in the areas of domestic relations, mental health and juvenile justice. Included among many Juvenile Court improvements spearheaded by Judge McDougall were the creation of the first Community Advisory Board and School/Court Oversight Committee, development of a professional caseload management system, and strong strategic planning initiatives within the Juvenile Court Judicial Department and the Juvenile Probation Department. In 1991, he was the first judge to receive the Freedom of Information Award given by the Society of Professional Journalists. Throughout his career, Judge McDougall has drafted and successfully lobbied many legislative initiatives including the state's Domestic Violence Act and the Family Responsibility Act; major revisions in this state's Involuntary and Voluntary Civil Commitment laws for both adults and juveniles, as well as numerous laws and court rules involving juvenile delinquency, dependency and adoption. Active in both County and State Bar associations, he was the first sitting Superior Court judge to serve as president of the Maricopa County Bar Association (1988-89). He served as Chairman of the Arizona State Bar Family Law Committee, Chairman of the Maricopa County Bar Family Law Committee and Chairman of the Arizona State Bar Probate and Mental Health Committee. Judge McDougall has served on many special task forces, committees and commissions dedicated to the improvement of family, domestic relations, mental health and juvenile laws. He has also lectured extensively and taught educational and training sessions for both attorneys and judges in these areas.